

Message Text

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63

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (DENT, FREDERICK B.), EEC, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR DENT'S MEETING WITH SAOMES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3665

FIELDING, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS SAYS THAT THE SOAMES OFFICE HAS NOTIFIED THE COMMISSION STAFF ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMBASSADOR DENT'S VISIT ON MAY 22 TO DISCUSS THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. SOAMES IS ATTEMPTING TO HAVE COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH INVOLVED IN THE CONVERSATIONS. THE TWO OF THEM WOULD THUS BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE DISCUSSION. UNFORTUNATELY, HIJZEN, THE COMMISSION'S PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, WOULD BE AWAY IN OTTAWA THAT WEEK AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE. HOWEVER, TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE NEEDED TO BE A REFERENCE TO TECHNICAL ASPECTS, THE COMMISSION WOULD RELY ON PHAN VAN PHI OR POSSIBLY LUYTEN FROM GENEVA. FORTESCUE OF SOAMES' CABINET TOLD US THAT SOAMES HAD CONSIDERED PROPOSING AN ALTERNATIVE DATE IN ORDER THAT HIJZEN BE PRESENT, BUT THAT THIS HAD NOT PROVED FEASIBLE. SOAMES FELT THAT SINCE THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE BROAD-BRUSH POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, HIJZEN'S PRESENCE WOULD NOT BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. GREENWALD

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